IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Applicant:

Ottino et al.

Serial No:

10/561,202

Filing Date:

December 19, 2005

For:

A Lock For A Door Of A Motor Vehicle

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a)

Mail Stop Petition Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notification Of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 mailed March 31, 2006, Applicants submit this Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) requesting that the Commissioner accept the application by the signing joint inventor, Mr. Franco Ottino, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor, Mr. Giacomo Crotti, who cannot be found or reached for executing the Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application despite the diligent effort by the undersigned. A petition fee of \$200.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(g), the fee of \$130.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.492(h) for the late submission of the oath or declaration, and the fee of \$1,020.00 for a three month extension of time, is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is further authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1759.

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The facts surrounding the unsigned Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application (hereinafter referred to as the "Declaration") are as follows:

- 1. The joint inventors, Mssrs. Franco Giovanni Ottino and Giacomo Crotti, invented "A Lock For A Door Of A Motor Vehicle." This was the subject matter of an Italian national application having a Serial Number TO2003A 000557 and a filing date of July 18, 2003.
- 2. A PCT patent application for "A Lock For A Door Of A Motor Vehicle" having an International Application Number PCT/EP04/51542 was filed on July 19, 2004. This PCT patent application claims priority to the above-referenced Italian national application, as evidenced by International Publication Number WO 2005/012677 (Attachment 1).
- 3. The above-captioned U.S. national stage patent application for "A Lock For A Door Of A Motor Vehicle" having an Application Number 10/561,202 was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on December 19, 2005. The U.S. national stage patent application claims priority to the originally filed Italian national application through the above-referenced PCT patent application. This is evidenced by the transmittal letter for the U.S. national stage application, which is included at Attachment 2.
- 4. Mr. Ottino executed the Declaration on April 14, 2006. Mr. Crotti did not execute the Declaration. The signing joint inventor, Mr. Ottino, executed the Declaration on behalf of himself and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor, Mr. Crotti. The partially executed Declaration is included at Attachment 3.

- 5. Mr. Alex Porat, Patent Counsel for Intier Automotive Closures, Inc., prepared a cover letter of instructions to Mr. Crotti requesting that Mr. Crotti execute and return the Declaration. Enclosed with the cover letter was the complete patent application, including the specification and drawings, and a copy of the Declaration for signing. A copy of the cover letter of instructions is included at Attachment 4.
- 6. The above-mentioned cover letter, along with the complete patent application and Declaration, was sent by Mr. Porat to Mr. Crotti at his last known address via Registered Mail on June 20, 2006. A copy of the Receipt for Registered Mail is included at Attachment 5.
 - 7. Mr. Crotti has not executed and returned the Declaration.
- 8. The present Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) seeks to allow the joint inventor who has previously signed the Declaration, Mr. Ottino, to prosecute the above-referenced national stage patent application in the USPTO on behalf of himself and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor, Mr. Crotti.

Mr. Crotti's last known address is Via Liguria, 17, 56100 Pisa, Italy. Applicants have not been able to reach Mr. Crotti even after diligent effort. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Commissioner accept the diligent efforts of the Applicants and allow the Applicants to prosecute the patent application to their best ability as the patent application is an

asset of the Applicants.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this Petition is directed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay S. Paranjpe (Reg. No. 45,486)

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Date:

Attorney Docket No: 21908-10358

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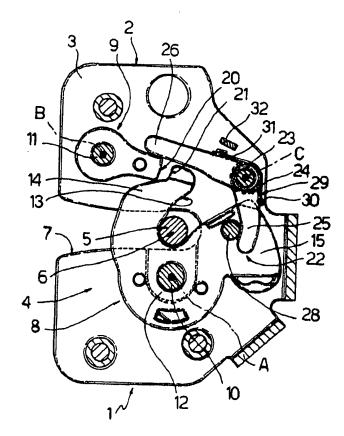
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- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): OTTINO, Franco,

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- (74) Agents: JORIO, Paolo et al.; STUDIO TORTA S.r.l., Via Viotti, 9, I-10121 TORINO (IT).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, IP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A LOCK FOR A DOOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE



(57) Abstract: Described herein is a lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle provided with a closing mechanism (4) designed to cooperate with a lock striker (6) fixed to an upright of the door itself; the closing mechanism (4) is provided with: a fork (8), which can assume an opening position, in which it enables engagement and disengagement between the lock striker (6) and a seat (13) thereof, and a closing position, in which it withholds the lock striker (6) within its seat (13) and prevents disengagement thereof; a dog (9) coupled via snapaction with the fork (8) for blocking it in a releasable way in the closing position; and an auxiliary lever (22), which can be actuated by the fork (8) during coupling with the lock striker (6) for exerting an action of thrust on the dog (9) and causing it to couple with the fork (8) itself.

WO 2005/012677 A1

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ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

- with international search report

WO 2005/012677 PCT/EP2004/051542

A LOCK FOR A DOOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a lock for a door of a motor vehicle.

It is pointed out that the term «door» is used, in the present description and in the ensuing claims, in its widest sense to indicate any element that can move between an opening position and a closing position of an access opening to an internal compartment of a motor vehicle. The aforesaid term therefore comprises, in addition to the side doors of the motor vehicle, to which explicit reference will be made in the ensuing description without this entailing any loss of generality, also the bonnet or the boot or the hatchback.

BACKGROUND ART

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As is known, locks for motor vehicles generally comprise a supporting body designed to be fixed to a door of the motor vehicle, and a closing mechanism carried by the supporting body and designed to couple with a lock striker fixed to an upright of the frame of the door itself. There exist moreover solutions, used much more rarely, in which the supporting body of the lock is constrained to the upright, and the lock striker is instead fixed to the door.

In both cases, the closing mechanism is formed basically by a fork and a dog or catch hinged to the supporting body about respective fixed axes parallel to one another.

The fork has an engagement seat for a generally cylindrical portion of the aforesaid lock striker, is elastically loaded towards an opening position, in which it enables engagement and disengagement between the lock striker and its seat, and

35 can assume a closing position, in which it withholds the

cylindrical portion of the lock striker within its seat and prevents disengagement thereof.

The dog is pushed by a spring to couple via snap-action, by means of an engagement edge thereof, with a peripheral retention shoulder of the fork for blocking the latter in a releasable way in the closing position.

In particular, following upon slamming of the door, the fork is displaced, under the thrust of the lock striker, from the opening position to an overtravel position set beyond the closing position; during the stretch of travel comprised between the closing position and the overtravel position, the fork passes, with its own retention shoulder, beyond the dog, enabling the latter to snap, with its own engagement edge, into a position facing the aforesaid shoulder. During the subsequent elastic return of the fork towards the opening position, the retention shoulder sets itself bearing upon the engagement edge of the dog, which thus defines the closing position of the fork itself on the lock striker.

In the case of presence of dirt or formation of ice inside the lock, the dog may be slowed down in its movement towards the position of coupling with the fork so that, as the door comes close to the corresponding frame, closing does not occur, with a consequent bouncing back of the door itself.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

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The purpose of the present invention is to provide a lock for a door of a motor vehicle, which will enable the drawback specified above inherent in known locks to be overcome, in a simple and inexpensive way.

The aforesaid purpose is achieved by the present invention, in so far as it relates to a lock for a door of a motor vehicle

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comprising a closing mechanism designed to co-operate with a lock striker, said closing mechanism comprising:

- a fork which can assume an opening position, in which it enables engagement and disengagement between said lock striker and a seat thereof, and a closing position, in which it withholds said lock striker within its seat and prevents disengagement thereof; and
- a dog coupled by snap-action with said fork for blocking it in a releasable way in said closing position;
- said lock being characterized in that it comprises auxiliary lever means which can be actuated by said fork during coupling with said lock striker to exert an action of thrust on said dog and cause it to couple with the fork itself.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- For a better understanding of the present invention a preferred embodiment is described in what follows, purely by way of non-limiting example and with reference to the annexed drawings, in which: Figure 1 is a front view, partially
- sectioned and with parts removed for reasons of clarity, of a lock for a door of a motor vehicle, made according to the present invention and set in an opening condition;
 - Figure 2 is a front view, partially sectioned and with parts removed for reasons of clarity, of the lock of Figure 1 in a closing condition; and
 - Figure 3 is a front view, partially sectioned and with parts removed for reasons of clarity, of the lock of Figure 1 in a step of displacement towards the closing condition.

30 BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

With reference to the annexed figures, designated, as a whole, by 1 is a lock for a door of a motor vehicle (the door and the motor vehicle not being illustrated).

35 The lock 1 basically comprises a box-type supporting body 2, of which, for reasons of clarity, only a plate 3 is

illustrated, which is designed to be fixed to the aforesaid door, and a closing mechanism 4, which is constrained to the supporting body 2 and is designed to co-operate with a cylindrical portion 5 of a lock striker 6 represented only in part, fixed to a fixed upright (not illustrated) of the door itself.

In particular, the plate 3 defines a C-shaped side opening 7 designed to receive the portion 5 of the lock striker 6 during closing of the door.

The closing mechanism 4 basically comprises a fork 8 and a dog 9, which are hinged about respective fixed pins 10, 11, which are, in turn, fixed to the plate 3 and have respective axes A, 15 B parallel to one another and orthogonal to the plate 3 itself.

The fork 8 is constituted by a shaped plate made of metal material, is hinged in an area corresponding to an intermediate portion 12 thereof about the pin 10 and has a C-shaped peripheral seat 13, which is designed to house the portion 5 of the lock striker 6 and is delimited laterally by a pair of teeth 14, 15.

25 Conveniently, the fork 8 is coated externally by a shell made of plastic material, from which there exit the free ends of the teeth 14 and 15 delimiting the seat 13.

The fork 8 is pushed in a known way, by a spring (not illustrated) wound around the pin 10 and constrained to the fork 8 itself and to the plate 3 towards an opening position (see Figure 1), in which the seat 13 faces in the same direction as the opening 7 of the plate 3 and thus enables engagement and disengagement of the portion 5 of the lock striker 6; the fork 8 can, moreover, assume a closing position (see Figure 2), in which it blocks the portion 5 of the lock

striker 6 within its seat 13 and prevents exit thereof, by intercepting the opening 7 with the tooth 14.

The dog 9 is formed by a shaped plate designed to couple via snap-action with the fork 8 for blocking it in a releasable way in the closing position.

In particular, the dog 9 extends basically on the same plane of lie as the fork 8, is hinged to the pin 11 in an area corresponding to one end thereof and is designed to engage via snap-action, by means of an opposite L-shaped end edge 20 of its own, with a shoulder 21 made along the peripheral edge of the tooth 14 of the fork 8 on the opposite side to the side that delimits the seat 13.

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The dog 9 is pushed in a known way towards the fork 8 by a cylindrical helical spring (not illustrated) wound around the pin 11 and constrained to the dog 9 itself and to the plate 3.

- 20 In particular, following upon slamming of the door, the fork 8 is designed to be displaced, under the thrust of the portion 5 of the lock striker 6, from the opening position to an overtravel position (Figure 3) set beyond the closing position; during the stretch of travel comprised between the 25 closing position and the overtravel position, referred to briefly in what follows as "overtravel", the fork 8 passes, with its own shoulder 21, beyond the dog 9, enabling the latter to snap, with its own end edge 20, into a position facing the shoulder 21 itself. In the course of the subsequent elastic return of the fork 8 towards the opening position, the shoulder 21 sets itself bearing upon the end edge 20 of the dog 9, which thus defines the closing position of the fork 8 itself on the lock striker 6.
- 35 According to an important aspect of the present invention, the closing mechanism 4 further comprises an auxiliary lever 22,

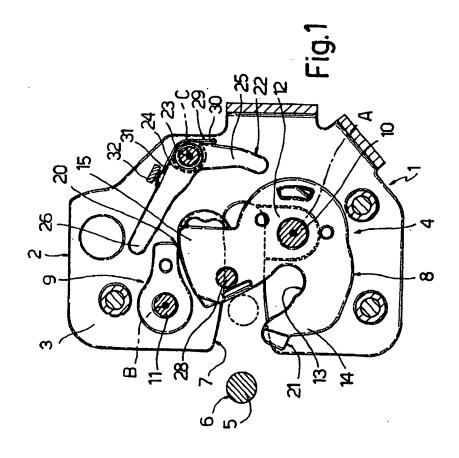
which can be actuated by the fork 8 during coupling with the portion 5 of the lock striker 6 to exert an action of thrust on the dog 9 and cause it to couple with the fork 8 itself.

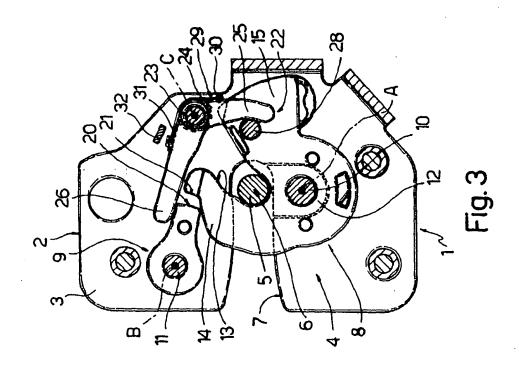
- In particular, the auxiliary lever 22 is hinged to the plate 3 by means of a pin 23 having an axis C parallel to the axes A and B, and is set in a position facing the fork 8 and the dog 9 and substantially alongside the fork and dog themselves.
- Preferably, the auxiliary lever 22 is approximately L-shaped and comprises an intermediate portion 24 hinged to the pin 23, and an actuating arm 25 and a thrust arm 26, which project in cantilever fashion from the intermediate portion 24, form with one another an angle slightly greater than 90°, and are designed to co-operate with the fork 8 and with the dog 9, respectively.

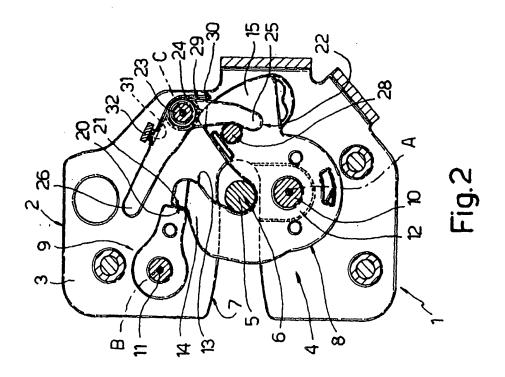
In particular, the thrust arm 26 of the auxiliary lever 22 extends on the same plane of lie as the fork 8 and the dog 9, whilst the actuating arm 25 extends parallel and in a position above the plane of lie of the fork 8 itself.

The actuating arm 25 is designed to receive, during overtravel displacement of the fork 8, i.e., during displacement from the closing position (see Figure 2) to the overtravel position (see Figure 3), thrust forces from a pin 28 projecting orthogonally in cantilever fashion from the tooth 15 of the fork 8 itself.

- As a result of the thrust received on its actuating arm 25, the auxiliary lever 22 is designed to rotate about the axis C so as to bring about interaction of the thrust arm 26 with the dog 9.
- 35 In particular, the thrust arm 26 extends on the opposite side of the dog 9 with respect to the fork 8 and, following upon







Abstract

Described herein is a lock for a door of a motor vehicle provided with a closing mechanism designed to cooperate with a lock striker fixed to an upright of the door itself; the closing mechanism is provided with: a fork, which can assume an opening position, in which it enables engagement and disengagement between the lock striker and a seat thereof, and a closing position, in which it withholds the lock striker within its seat and prevents disengagement thereof; a dog coupled via snapaction with the fork for blocking it in a releasable way in the closing position; and an auxiliary lever, which can be actuated by the fork during coupling with the lock striker for exerting an action of thrust on the dog and causing it to couple with the fork itself

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	P	ONAL APPLICATION NO. CT/EP2004/051542	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 19 July 2004	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 18 July 2003					
TITLE	TIL OF INVENTION								
A LO	A LOCK FOR A DOOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE								
APPLI	APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US								
	o et al								
Applic	ant he	erewith submits to the United States	s Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the fo	ollowing items and other information:					
1.	\boxtimes		ms concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 3						
1. 2.		This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUE	ENT submission of items concerning a submiss	sion under 35 U.S.C. 371.					
3.		This is an express request to begi (9) and (24) indicated below.	n national examination procedures (35 U.S.C.	371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6),					
4.		The US has been elected (Article	31).						
4. 5.		A copy of the International Applica	ation as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2))						
J.		a. is attached hereto (requi	ired only if not communicated by the Internatio	nal Bureau).					
		b. 🛭 has been communicated	by the International Bureau.	İ					
		c. \Box is not required, as the ap	oplication was filed in the United States Receivi	ing Office (RO/US).					
6.		An English language translation of	f the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C	C. 371(c)(2)).					
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8.		An oath or declaration of the inver	f the amendments to the claims under PCT Arti	iicie 19 (30 U.S.C. 3/1(C)(3)).					
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PTO-1390 (Rev. 07-2005) for use through 3/31/2007. OMB 0651-0021 ice; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ass it displays a valid OMB control number.

Approve-

U.S. Patent and Trademarbersons are required to respond to a collection of informatio. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ☐ A check in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. Please charge my Deposit Account No. in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. 🔀 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. to Deposit Account No. 50-1759 d. X Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Robin W. Asher SIGNATURE Clark Hill PLC Robin W. Asher 500 Woodward Avenue, Ste. 3500 NAME Detroit, MI 48226-3435 41,590 **REGISTRATION NUMBER** 12/19/05 DATE

Docket	No.
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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,							
I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (If only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (If plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled							
Lock for a Motor Vehicle Door							
the specification of which							
(check one)							
is attached hereto.							
was filed on July 19, 2004 as United States Application No. or PCT International							
Application Number PCT/EP 04/051542							
and was amended on							
(if applicable)							
I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.							
I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.							
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.							
Prior Foreign Application(s) Priority Claimed							
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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Our Ref: 703505US Your Ref:

June 16, 2006

VIA REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Giacomo CROTTI Via Liguria, 17 56100 Pisa Italy

Dear Mr. Crotti:

Re: PCT Patent Application No. PCT/ EP 04/051542

Title: Lock for a Motor Vehicle Door Applicant: Intier Automotive Closures Inc.

Enclosed is a Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application document along with a copy of the application. Kindly execute the Declaration and Power of Attorney document and return a copy to us by facsimile and the original by regular mail in the self addressed envelope by July 17, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Porat Patent Counsel AP/ae-Encls.

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